

and Gaimard, but in that the dorsal fin is said to extend to the caudal,* which is far from being the case here. I have named it *velutinus*, in respect of the minute bristles which cover the skin, somewhat resembling the pile of velvet.

OSTRACION PUNCTATUS. *Schn.*

L'Ostracion pointillé, *Lacép.* Hist. Nat. des Poiss. tom. i. p. 455. pl. 21. fig. 1.

Ostracion punctatus, *Schneid.* Syst. Ichth. p. 501.

—*Meleagris*, *Shaw*, Nat. Misc. pl. 253.

This well-marked species of Ostracion, first described by Lacépède from Commerson's MSS., and afterwards figured by Shaw, in his "Naturalist's Miscellany," under the name of *O. Meleagris*, was obtained by Mr. Darwin at Tahiti, where it had been previously observed by Captain Cook.

There are two specimens in the collection, both exactly similar, and of the same size, measuring a trifle more than three inches and a half in length. They also accord well with Shaw's figure. Lacépède, in his description, speaks of the anal fin as being more extended than the dorsal, and as having eleven rays; but in both Mr. Darwin's specimens, I find the number of rays in these two fins the same. The formula is as follows:

D. 9; A. 9; C. 8; P. 10.

Schneider has noticed this species twice; first under the name of *lentiginosus*, and again under that of *punctatus*.

* This character, though mentioned in the description, is not, however, represented in the figure. See *Freycinet's Voyage (Zoologie)*, pl. 47. f. 2.

CYCLOSTOMI.

FAMILY.—PETROMYZONIDÆ.

MYXINE AUSTRALIS. *Jen.*

FORM.—Scarcely differing from the *M. glutinosa*, but apparently rather more slender in proportion to its length. Mouth and cirriform appendages the same. Branchial orifices two, very near together, placed beneath, at a little beyond one-fourth of the entire length. A very conspicuous row of pores along each side of the abdomen. The tail seems somewhat sharper than in the *M. glutinosa*, and the rays of the low fin which turns round its extremity rather more distinct. Vent distant from the end of the tail rather less than one-eighth of the entire length.

Length 11 inc. 6 lin.

COLOUR.—"Above coloured like an earth-worm, but more leaden; beneath yellowish; head purplish."—D.

Habitat, Tierra del Fuego.

Mr. Darwin obtained this species by hook amongst the kelp, in Goree Sound, and other parts of Tierra del Fuego, where he observes it is abundant amongst the rocky islets. Its extreme southern locality would suggest the idea of its being distinct from the *M. glutinosa* of the northern seas; yet the differences between the two, upon comparison, are very slight, and, if it really be so, as I have ventured to consider it, it requires an examination of more specimens to lay down its exact specific character.

Mr. Darwin has made some interesting remarks on the habits of this fish. He observes that it is "very vivacious, and retained its life for a long time; that it had great powers of twisting itself, and could swim tail first. When irritated, it struck at any object with its teeth; and by protruding them, in its manner, much resembled an adder striking with its fangs. It vomited up a *Sipunculus* when caught." He adds, that he "observed a milky fluid transuding through the row of lateral pores."